

In the Specification

On page 1, please replace the second paragraph with the following:

OSPF (Open Shortest Path First) is a link state routing protocol. Adjacent devices within a network exchange information in the form of link state advertisements in such a way that all nodes in the network have a consistent link state database at their disposal. Each node then uses this link state database to make routing decisions. In order to avoid faulty routing, it is imperative that all nodes converge to a common view of the network and each node make routing decisions in a manner consistent with the rest of the nodes in the network. To achieve convergence, OSPF defines procedures for reliable flooding information originated by any node to the rest of the network. Consistent routing is achieved in OSPF by mandating that each node route IP datagrams along the shortest path from itself to the destination specified in the IP datagram.

On page 4, please replace the first paragraph of the Detailed Description with the following:

Although the present invention is described in connection with the OSPF routing protocol, it would be understood that the invention would also be applicable to other routing protocols including, but not limited to, PNNI (Private Network – Network Interface) and ISIS (Intermediate System to Intermediate System).

On page 16, replace the first full paragraph with the following:

A delegate port card 80 can get an LSA from another port card 86. In this case, the processing is the same as above, except that the *ack* is sent through the port card 86 that originally received the LSA. If the LSA is accepted by the delegate and passed on to the controller, a minor optimization to the above is possible. The port card that originally received the LSA can send back an *ack* to the sending neighbor based on the flood from the controller. Once again, note that no reliable communication is needed in this scenario. The above exemplary procedure for handling incoming LSAs are illustrated in Fig. 87.